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THE TIMORESE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND THE TIMORESE PRISONERS FRATERNITY

PRESS STATEMENT

EAST TIMOR

Once again this year the East Timor situation on Human Rights was brought before the 50th Meeting of the United Nations Geneve Human Rights Conference in which have participated several parties representing various points of view.

This time it was expected that the subjects brought to implement the discussion of the situation of Human Rights in East Timor could in fact reach realistic angles of approach having into consideration that the circumstances in the field have changed a lot putting therefore more hope and confidence on the wish of the Timorese People to enjoy the ideals and benefit the honnest concern of the Civilized World and more properly to see in its homeland the protecting effects of the respect for the Human Rights as recommended and promoted by many governmental and non-governmental parties acting within the range of the United Nations.

We are absolutely aware that the intention of the multi-representatives herein present is to criate conditions to avoid the repetition of sad successes which merged our People in pain for the sudden abandonment of East Timor by Portugal and by the responsibilities of the former colonialist power in provoking a nasty civil war.Also we had the hope that this year the usual list of victims presented by some organisations would be practically reduced to a very small amount as after the incident of 12 November 1991,local authorities have taken serious measures to avoid any whatsoever similar repetition of conditions which have caused us enormous regrets.It seems therefore(abstracting the fact of some overuse of facts and manipulating propaganda for political and ideological objectives,like re-mounted video clips from the past to capture updated international attention) that, in fact, we have a better situation of Human Rights in East Timor,however being desirable that this and future UN Meetings on Human Rights keep going on the correct surveillance of the measures and practices in what concerns the improvements and concerns of the local authorities in fulfilling the recommendations made and approved in the UN Human Rights Commissions assembled.

We seriously consider that the efforts of the real and honnest Human Rights representations should be applauded as firm initiatives to bring towards every human being in suffering more confidence and hope. However,there are groups acting under sponsoring of honnest Human Rights organisations which have only the aim to use East Timor dramatism for the realization of goals which have nothing to do with Human Rights but with political interests to provoke more confrontation among the east timorese which obviously would mean the returning to conditions propicious to a civil war perhaps much more nasty than our civil war of 1975.

As aboriginal sons of East Timor we don't speak by interests commanded from wealthy

foreign political parties but through our heart dwelling in the valleys and mountains of East Timor. Therefore, as the sole real east timorese Human Rights organisations of entire east timorese blood the only way we see for our People's welfare, peace and human development, progress and self-confidence is to achieve through dialogue and negociation a fair solution for East Timor internationally accepted which can be one of all political alternatives suggested by the International Law jurisprudence, which do not impose "sine qua non" or "ad hoc" the independence.

The People of East Timor has a past "grandeur" of resistence against the portuguese Colonialism but this shall not be interpreted that on account or thanks to that ferreous colonialist system we became totally different from our blood ancestral brothers of the other side of the island which became Dutch in consequence of the reciprocal "colonial trading of peoples" practicized by the Portuguese and the Dutch. That, caused the erroneous perception that East Timor has a complete different cultural identity in regard to our blood brothers of the west side of East Timor.If we became divided under the two colonialist flags and languages of oppression is because Portugal and Holland have divided our common families in two pieces for self made kingdom of domination and exploitation. To discuss East Timor implies strongly the full analysis of the still hidden historical factors which caused our painfull Desintegration and separation from our whole timorese population,only possible because we were the sole victims of wars of genocide and extermination mainly caused by the portuguese Colonialism which in only 50 years almost have made of East Timor one of the most horrorifying theaters of Death with no paralell in the awakening of this century.In fact our fathers and mothers used to say:East Timor is an enormous "sepultura"(grave).

We always kept the intention to struggle for Human Rights in East Timor not under the dictated orders of the portuguese political interests or the east timorese "pink revolutionarism" Our intention always was to help our People to surmount its own difficulties and worries in order to have them happy,prosperous and confident in its own native land in harmony with everyone around.

Practically, the direct access to information collection on East Timor is totally altered to the point that portuguese radio-journalists have been able to interview "live on the air" Bishop Carlos Filipe Belo who freely commented and replied to all questions he was required to talk about, including his views on the situation development in the territory.
Our east timorese brothers living in Portugal and Australia can today establish personal contacts by phone and by mail with their families and other east timorese who can afford the price of an airticket choose recently East Timor to spend there holidays with relatives without any persecution or watching from the side of the local authorities. Much more east timorese living abroad are now preparing themselves to also travel to East Timor to observe with their own eyes the situation in the territory in order not to continue to depend from alarming news produced in some well known mass media of Portugal which do not have the courage to recognize that substantial changings on the respect for the Human Rights have been introduced in East Timor after the sad incident of Santa Cruz in Nov 12, 1991.

We are not exaggerating by saying that the east timorese outside the territory have no kind of fear neither hesitation to return again to our school buddies from 20 years ago whom have always remained in the territory to help our People to gradually recover from the Drama of 1974/1975 and the complications caused by regretable attitudes of the guerilla warfare against

its own brothers.

Above all what is more important for the east timorese victimized 19 years ago by the consequences of the portuguese abandoment is that the indonesian repression is over and we have now a second era of fraternity and harmony towards the future. So far and in the presence of the magnitude of the problem we can see that the conditions in the territory have now returned to a normal "situation stadium" if compared with the past troubling disputes.

It would be irreality and pretensiousness to ask the changing of the conditions for the entire respect of the Human Rights like if the happenings derived from human nature were the four squares of a slot machine easily moved by a single hand mouvement. If we pay attention to the portuguese press and reports in Television stations, it is quite horrorifying to see that strong abuses on Human Rights are daily commited in Portugal, even being this respectable and honourable Nation 800 years old a member State of the European Community. Let us to pick up the yearly reports oif Amnesty International and easily we can say that Portugal is not yet fulfilling its observancy on the Human Rights in comparison with other european states. As East Timorese grateful for the Christianity introduced in Southeast Asia by the portuguese heroic seafarers and merchants we have full perception that also the portuguese generous people is victim of daily Human Rights offenses and very few has been made to force authorities to improve their behaviour for any portuguese citizen's human rights.Therefore,as Portugal needs time and opportunity to educate their authorities to respect human rights also we must give time to local East Timor authorities to introduce the international reccommendations from the International Forum. Besides this,let us take a glimpse on the other countries where disputes occur and we certainly conclude that the Human Rights even have no name therein...

Owing traumas from the past our People wishes not to be involved in the disputes caused by the antagonic east timorese idcologues.Many of us are divided in two options and our division has been incremented by foreign parties.However,the recent realization of a meeting in London between qualified representatives from the inside and the outside has originated steady advancing steps towards the Reunion of the East Timorese Family.Obviously,this informal happening caused the criticism of some internationalist forces in full control of a so-called east timorese "resistence" and great amounts of articles,opinions and "repudiations" have been produced not exclusivelly by the east timorese but by the ones who depend of the east timorese permanent internationalized "cause" to survive economically otherwise they should be forced to find a job or change activity.

The London meeting between east timorese with opposite points of view freely and clearly opened minds and hearts for realities we were stubborn to analyse with cold head and east timorese brotherhood in our hearts. Our worry was to find out if our People was now living better without famine, medical assistence or if it was not persecuted or abused. The conclusion was acceptable and therefore we decided to work for peace and reconcialiation.

We have to express gratitude to the honorable GO's and NGO's who have presented their points of view on the respect of the Human Rights in East Timor under a total honesty and concern in search for a solution of pacific reality for the east timorese conflict. On contrary we regret,as genuinc aboriginal east timorese,that some groups were given the opportunity to act shamefully under sponsoring of some NGO's just to show up in the international Forum

their ability for political-theatral performance to continue to obtain profit and advantage with the suffering and pain of our beloved People.As a matter of fact,they get very angry and immediatelly start counter-information of fictious "realities" the moment they detect our efforts for reconciliation,dialogue,peace and justice.Furthermore,they try at all costs that the genuine east timorese with long years of struggling for the welfare of the People be irradiated from the international Forum to allow them to "uniquesize" their "representativity" criated only outside of the territory of East Timor.

The portuguese so-called "decolonization" process was a mockery and even have been a internationalist militancy manoeuvre to carry out a conspiracy against the People of East Timor.The truth about the portuguese "decolonization process" is still hidden but we can dismantle it any moment before the international opinion if necessary.

It should be recommandable to say that the East Timor case will be only resolved by the People of East Timor and not by any decision cooked by outsiders who are aiming to again see us into trouble and drama.

As peace loving People we have the right to determinate our roads for the future and only ourselves can decide which international alternative solutions best fit our goals for human happiness within our ancestral human "stadium".

Therefore,all we ask is understanding and help not international news manipulations to make the apology of the Chaos,Suffering and Disgrace. Let our People to choose between Love and Prosperity and Disorder and Famine to take out of our minds the spectacule of human suffering of former Yugoslavia, Somalia,Angola,Mozambique,Afganistan or Cambodia. Kindly let the East Timorese with the Hope in the Future of the Humankind and meriting its broad human condition consequent of the implementation of the Human Rights!

Paulino Gama
President